

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Key Accomplishments from July to December 2011

Overall

Flood Authority Committee Work

- Developed new subcommittees: executive, education & outreach, project
- Executive:
 - Conducted consultation outreach efforts to Chehalis Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Cowlitz Tribe
 - Coordinated monthly meetings, work of other committees
- Education & Outreach:
 - Began developing more regular communications and updates
 - Restructured existing Flood Authority website
 - Created structure for iPRMT site (more robust website)
 - Rotated meetings to different locations, including Rochester, Montesano, Chehalis, Bucoda, Cosmopolis/Aberdeen
 - Hosted public awareness workshop on potential flood impacts and preparedness as part of roll out of Early Warning System
 - Hosted House Capital Budget Committee for tour of the Basin
- Project:
 - Revisited existing information, compiled set of potential projects
 - Reviewed potential projects for additional information, and developed more refined matrix by project type
 - Helped direct hydraulic modeling effort

Flood Authority Work on On-going Projects

- Worked with WEST Consultants to implement **Chehalis Basin Early Warning System** to provide timely information about impending flood conditions, including critical information about Skookumchuck Dam to allow for better forecasting of potential impacts. Relayed information about the system through news release, technical and public workshops, and public television broadcast.
- Worked with Anchor QEA to circulate complete draft **Fisheries Impact Study** report of potential impacts on water retention on the Mainstem Chehalis River. Report currently in review.
- Issued an RFQ for hydraulic modeling and hired Watershed Science & Engineering (WSE) to conduct **hydraulic model** of the lower river in close coordination with on-going work by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Coordinated with Office of Financial Management (OFM), state agencies on developing OFM report due to the legislature in July 2012

Key Events by Date

July 2011:

- Governor's Office briefing by Keith Phillips
- Reviewed West Consultants supplemental contract
- Reviewed staff scopes of work, potential work plans

August 2011:

- Reviewed draft work plan
- Approved sub committee structure, members
- Prepared hydraulic model request for qualifications, interviewed candidates, and worked with Exec. Committee to select team of experts to recommend to the Flood Authority

September 2011:

- Toured Montesano area flooding concerns
- Approved draft work plan through 2012; reviewed draft stakeholder outreach plan
- Received update on Fisheries Study
- Reviewed and approved proposed approach for hydraulic modeling

October 2011

- Conducted tour of upper basin for House Capital Budget Committee, staff, interested participants; follow up discussions with Chairman Dunshee
- Reviewed subcommittee work: updated website language, draft iPRMT site, project lists
- Approved work plan for hydraulic modeling
- Approved continued coordination services

November 2011

- Toured Bucoda area flooding concerns, Skookumchuck Dam
- Briefing on Anchor QEA Fisheries Study, Enhancement Work
- Briefing on hydraulic modeling effort
- Briefing on Early Warning System
- Reviewed request to add new members from Napavine and Cosmopolis
- Worked on approvals for final Early Warning System gages
- Hosted 3 public open houses on Early Warning System, and tested the system during high water events just prior to Thanksgiving
- Anchor QEA Fisheries Study released for public review, comment
- Further coordination re: OFM report (due July 2012)

December 2011

- Formal consultation meeting between Flood Authority and Chehalis Tribe
- Continued field work for hydraulic modeling effort, and coordination with Corps
- Feedback, refinement of the Early Warning System, plus update on gage installation
- Review of Fisheries Impact Study:
 - Process update at Flood Authority meeting
 - Discussion with Quinault Indian Nation, NWIFC staff
 - Technical Workshop, Question/Answer Session held for public
 - Review period extended until early January 2012
- Tour of Cosmopolis and Aberdeen flooding areas
- Continued discussion of coordination with OFM report
- Continued discussion about adding Napavine/Cosmopolis as members